

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A curable aqueous composition including (a) a polyacid including at least two carboxylic acid groups, anhydride groups, or salts thereof; (b) a polyol including at least two hydroxyl groups; and (c) an emulsion polymer including, as copolymerized units, greater than 30% by weight, based on the weight of the emulsion polymer solids, ethylenically unsaturated acrylic monomer including a C₅ or greater alkyl group; wherein the ratio of the number of equivalents of the carboxylic acid groups, anhydride groups, or salts thereof to the number of equivalents of the hydroxyl groups is from 1/0.01 to 1/3, and wherein the carboxylic acid groups, anhydride groups, or salts thereof are neutralized to an extent of less than 35% with a fixed base is provided. Also provided is a method for treating heat-resistant fibers or a heat-resistant nonwoven formed therefrom with the curable aqueous composition and the article prepared thereby.